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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DBB 417

In Reply, Please Refer to
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

DATE 2001 2008

MARTIN BORMANN

On March 5, 1965, Major Arthur W. Foehser voluntarily appeared at the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Major Foehser advised that he is the Information Officer, 35th Artillery Brigade (Air Defense), United States Army, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and that his home address is 529 Saltoun Avenue, Odenton, Maryland.

Major Foehser advised that he read an article in the Sunday, February 21, 1965, edition of "The Sunday Star", a Washington, D. C. Sunday newspaper, on page B-1, concerning the decrease in vehicular traffic on U.S. Route 301 through Maryland because of the opening of a new alternate highway, and of the concern of businessmen along U.S. Route 301. The article described one Charles Vennedy, owner of the Charles Motor Court and Restaurant, U.S. Route 301, La Plata, Maryland, who, according to the article, had raised \$5,500 from businessmen along U.S. Route 301 for leasing billboard space along an alternate route to promote Route 301.

Major Foehser advised that he decided to talk with Charles Vennedy to determine, if he, the Major, could become involved in some way in this venture on the part of Vennedy. On February 27, 1965, Major Foehser drove to the Charles Motor Court and Restaurant and talked with Charles Vennedy.

Major Foehser advised that after talking with Charles Vennedy he recalled an article he had read in the March, 1965, edition of "Reader's Digest" magazine which described the attempts of the government of West Germany to locate Martin Bormann. After reconstructing his interview with Charles Vennedy, Major Foehser decided that Vennedy's description and actions indicated he could be identical with Martin Bormann.

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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Date: 2001

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For information, the following paragraph containing descriptive information regarding Martin Bormann is quoted from the above-cited "Reader's Digest" article:

"He is stocky and strong, not more than five feet eight inches tall, with a short thick neck and a large Slavic head. His eyes are brown. His dark-brown hair was receding from his broad forehead 20 years ago; he may be practically bald now. His face is sensual, with a wide, bulbous nose, large mouth and full lips. A large mole on his left temple is an identifying mark; he may have had it removed. He has short, square hands and wears 8½ shoes. He has an alert, confident look as if sizing up the person with him."

Major Foehser advised that Charles Vennedy, whom he recognized from a picture of Vennedy in above-cited newspaper article, approached him from a motel room after he knocked at length on the office door of the Charles Motor Court. Vennedy apologized for his two days growth of beard. They then went to the motel restaurant and talked. Vennedy had a noticeable German accent, and although he displayed a good English vocabulary, he would sometimes use a German word, correct himself, and then apologize. Major Foehser advised that he personally has been stationed in Germany. When he brought this to Vennedy's attention, Vennedy did not pursue the matter further, however. Major Foehser thought this unusual because he was aware that most people from Germany like to talk about various places in the country upon meeting another person who has been there. When Major Foehser asked Vennedy when he came to the United States, Vennedy advised that he had arrived in 1928. Vennedy discussed nothing further about his background, however.

Major Foehser advised that Vennedy's description was very similar to that of Bormann in the "Reader's Digest" article. He was stocky and strong, was not more than five feet eight inches tall, had the short tick neck, and the Slavic head. Vennedy's eyes were dark brown. His hair was entirely gray, however, and he was nearly completely bald. Although he had a two days growth of beard, Major Foehser was of the opinion that his face could be described as sensual, and he definitely had a large nose, mouth, and lips. Although Major Foehser did not notice a mole on his left temple, Vennedy did have a mark on his left temple just

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at the top of his nose which had the appearance of a blister. The skin appeared to have a fold. Vennedy had a short, square hands. His shoe size was not obtained.

Major Foehser advised that Vennedy appeared to be very alert in his conversation. In Major Foehser's opinion Vennedy's questions were intended to size him up. During the end of their conversation Vennedy asked the Major when he intended to retire from the Army; another time he asked the Major what he hoped to get out of the Army. (Major Foehser noted that although he was not wearing his uniform he did advise Vennedy of his status in the Army).

Major Foehser advised that another unusual thing about Vennedy was that he did not drink coffee during their conversation and did not offer the Major any, apologizing for this. Major Foehser noted that subject Bormann is described as not drinking coffee.

Major Foehser advised that the above-cited newspaper article identified Vennedy's wife as Ann Vennedy. A woman, whom Vennedy described as his wife, walked by them during their conversation. Major Foehser stated that this woman appeared to be about fortyfive years of age. He was of the opinion that this would indicate another characteristic of Martin Bormann, who is described as an "indefatigable woman-chaser" in the "Reader's Digest" article. Major Foehser estimated that Vennedy definitely appeared to be in his sixties.

Major Foehser noted that a picture of Charles Vennedy in the above-cited newspaper article generally resembles one of Martin Bormann in the "Reader's Digest" article.

Major Foehser advised that Martin Bormann is described in the "Reader's Digest" article as having a terrible temper. He noted that the newspaper article regarding Charles Vennedy described him as being very angry about the conditions on U.S. Route 301. The Major was of the opinion that this would be another indication that Charles Vennedy might be ident with subject Bormann.

Major Foehser advised that he did not make any type of business deal with Vennedy and that Vennedy told him he would contact him if he thought it necessary.

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Major Foehser noted that he had not thought about the "Reader's Digest" article either before or while he was talking with Kennedy, and that this occurred to him after their conversation while he was driving home.

Major Foehser advised that he is definitely interested in the \$25,000 reward described in the "Reader's Digest" article as being offered by the West German Government for information leading to the location of Martin Bormann. He stated that he is willing to cooperate with the proper authorities and that he can be contacted anytime if the authorities deem this necessary.

He further stated he intended to personally report this information to the German Embassy, Washington, D.C.